IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

J. Douglas # 19/4/02

In re Patent Application: HYODO et al.

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

As suggested by 37 C.F.R. 1.97, the undersigned attorney brings to the attention of the United States Patent and Trademark Office the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449, a copy of each of which is enclosed. This is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no better prior art exists, or that a reference is relevant merely because cited.

The Examiner is requested to initial the attached form PTO-1449 and to return a copy of the initialed document to the undersigned as an indication that the attached references have been considered and made of record.

The undersigned attorney of record hereby certifies under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) that each item of information referenced herein and attached hereto was first cited in a search report from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of the August 1, 2002 European Search Report is enclosed.

Applicant does not believe a fee is associated with this filing. However, if there is any shortage in the fee, please charge the deposit account of Nixon & Vanderhye, Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

Updeep S. Gill

Registration No. 37,334

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor Arlington, Virginia 22301

Telephone: (703) 765-6316 Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

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